for which they are supposed to have overcharged, are Benzethin and Penicillin. In the case of Pfizer, they are Oxytetracycline, PAS and other salts and formulations. In the case of Hoechst, they are Baralgan, Ketone and tetracycline and a number of other drugs. It is not possible for the Government at the present moment, as of now, to say how many tablets or vials have gone into the market during this period. So, we have asked the companies that they either to give it to us or to give must ascertain and they must assert, it to the Supreme Court that this is the amount that they have overcharged. Once they do that, once they quantify that amount, we will go into and check it. In fact, this is the prayer to the Supreme Court. I will just read out the prayer to the Supreme Court:

> "It is, therefore, prayed that this hon. Court be pleased to direct the respondents herein to deposit the amount, as per the undertakings given by them, in the Drug Prices Equalisation Account within two weeks from the date of the order and further permit officers of the Union of India to inspect the records of the respondents to verify whether the amount deposited by the respondents herein is true and correct amount and be pleased to pass such order or orders as this hon. Court deems fit and proper in the circumstances of the case."

Therefore, they will have to quantify, and we will check. If necessary, as the hon. Member has said, we will take advice of experts, suggestions of the experts.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 282 withdrawn.

*282. [*Withdrawn*].

USSR Industries of Gas from HBJ Pipeline

*283. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1790 kms of HBJ pipeline will be ready almost on time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the user industries which were proposed to be set up to make use of the gas supplied by HBJ pipeline are behind schedule;

(c) if so, what are the details of such industries; indicating how far they are behind schedule and the reasons for the delay in construction thereof;

(d) what schemes, if any, have been prepared to attract *adhoc* buyers of the gas in order to optimise the utilisation of the gas and to synchronise the completion of the pipeline with the starting of user industries; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that it is proposed to supply the gas to the power house in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The three fertilisers plants at Sawai Madhopur, Babrala and Shahjahanpur are now expected to be completed as follows:—

Sawai Madhopur . .	End—1990
Babrala	Mid—1991
Shahjahanpur . . .	Mid—1991

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

The three power plants at Kawas, Anta and Auraiya are now expected to start drawing gas in August, 1989.

The fertiliser plants are delayed mainly on account of formal transfer of land, selection of suitable sites, securing environmental clearance and finalisation of contractual arrangements for consultancy.

The power plants are delayed on account of delay in award of contracts.

(d) and (e) The possibility of supplying gas to additional consumers including power plants in Delhi is being explored with a view to utilise the pipeline to the maximum extent possible.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam Deputy Chairperson, it is admitted that delay is likely to occur in the consumption of the gas that is going to be transmitted through the HBJ pipeline. May I know from the Minister who are the prospective buyers? Unless you have the prospective buyers ready to use this primary commodity then again there would be a delay. They have to prepare for consumption. May I know the names of the prospective buyers region-wise? I do not want all the details.

Regarding the question of loss, I am going to ask it in second supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask only your first supplementary.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Because the first questioner is not here. I suppose I am entitled for two supplementaries.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask first supplementary first and then I will give you another opportunity.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: The first question I have asked is: who were the prospective buyers? I would also like to know whether there will be any loss of gas That is the point.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Madam, as far as the loss of gas is concerned, we can control it because most of the gas is free gas from Bassein gas fields. But temporarily we are proposing to supply to consumers like the Gujarat State Fertiliser Corporation, IPCL and they will revert to their original fuel when the regular consumers come. Apart from this, certain additional consumers are also being considered for the supply of gas. The parties at present under Government's consideration are : Indian Explosives Ltd., National Thermal Power Corporation and Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking and I am also informed that the Ministry of Power is making all attempts to complete three power plants by February, 1989 instead of August, 1989.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, as the hon. Minister has estimated that failure in offtake of gas in time would result in loss in terms of cubic metres of gas, and it will have implications on finance aspect. May I know from the Minister what is likely to be the loss? That is my second question?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Madam, earlier I was attempting to clarify that the gas loss can be contained. With regard to investment and the manpower that will be employed, the exact quantum of loss can be calculated only when we are able to identify the fall back consumers.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Minister while answering part (e) of the question has stated that the possibility of supplying gas to additional consumers including power plants in Delhi is being explored with a view to utilise the pipeline to the maximum extent possible. I have questions in two parts. Firstly, what was the project estimate when it was prepared? Who are the possible buyer plants which

are likely to use this gas? Was it part of the project proposals?

Secondly, what specific steps the Government of India have taken to get the gas that is likely to come to Delhi to be utilised by power plants and which are the power plants approached for consumption of the gas? What proposals have been formulated by the Union Government?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: The projected estimate cost is Rs. 1700 crores.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam, I did not ask about the money. I did not ask about the cost estimate. I asked: What were the proposals with regard to utilisation of the gas that is likely to come to Delhi through this pipeline? There must have been something in the original proposal. I would like to know what are those proposals? What attempts have been made subsequently to get this gas utilised as soon as it comes?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Madam, there was initially no idea to supply gas to Delhi from HBJ pipeline. HBJ pipeline was to end at Babrala on Western side of U.P. and Jagdishpur on Eastern side of U.P. Now, we are talking to the Ministry of Power to use this gas for DESU plant and if possible for the coming Dadri plant. It is only in the preliminary stages of negotiation.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, there was so much of debate in this House about the HBJ pipeline but I am glad that according to the reply itself, it is on schedule but my information is that it is before schedule. It was mentioned that industries for which it was meant are running behind the schedule. So, my queries are: (a) loss for non-utilisation which is estimated by some people at Rs. 1100 crores; (b) cost escalation in completion of project for which HBJ pipeline was laid down; (c) cost of diversion to other utilisation such as energy etc. and (d) wastage and how can it be calculated. On these four specific queries, I would like to know the opinion of the hon. Minister.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Madam Deputy Chairman, about the wastage, I have already submitted that the gas can be saved.

But of course, if we are not able to identify fall-back consumers, there will be loss of interest or the investment made and manpower employed. Therefore, we are trying to identify fall-back consumers. There will be no loss due to diversion of the gas to power plants. Whether gas is given to power plants or fertilizer plants, for LPG extraction or for petrochemical, we are concerned with the end use. I think, these two points would clear the hon. Member's questions.

Power shortage in Bihar

*284. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:†

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 132 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kahalgaon Thermal Plant was planned to meet the energy shortage in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the plant is behind schedule;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to expedite the completion of the plant; and

(d) what are the details regarding the Super Thermal Power Station sanctioned for Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN *THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN* THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW)

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bapu Kaldate.